

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 are currently pending in the application. The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 of one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-48 and 75-80, drawn to a sternal reconstruction system, classified in class 606, subclass 74;

Group II: Claims 62-74, drawn to a method, classified in class 606, subclass 72; and

Group III: Claims 49-61, drawn to a flexible cable, classified in class 606, subclass 53.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of the above Groups are distinct, each from each other for the reasons stated on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

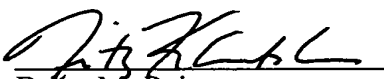
In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, pending claims 1-48 and 75-80, drawn to a sternal reconstruction system, classified in class 606, subclass 74. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the invention of the nonelected groups, as originally claimed, in one or more divisional applications.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned at (212) 326-3419 if any questions or issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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